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defense. He is studying municipal ownership, not private enterprise (p. 363). Hence, in making comparisons, when the returns are favorable on their face to private operation, they are passed over with little comment. When the opposite condition appears, however, the figures are traversed and analyzed with the greatest care, and the apparent advantage is probably explained away. Thus the saving resulting from the apparently low cost of street lighting by the public plants fades into nothingness (pp. 225-240), and the excellent physical showing of the Holyoke and Norwood public plants is explained as "probably accounted for by local conditions rather than by good management solely," and the fact that they "have a more favorable territory, due to no efforts of their own" (pp. 151-152). Three times we are assured, twice in italics, that the author is comparing the municipal plants with the smallest and "most inefficient" private plants in the state (pp. 82, 84, 86), and it is only by a somewhat careful reading of the text and study of the tables that we learn that the municipal plants in the comparison are still smaller and are located in much less populous communities (pp. 81, 144-145, 159-160). It would scarcely have been fair to have compared the public plants of Merrimac or little Paxton with the far-flung system of the Boston Edison Company.

The author does not fail to draw from his study of these small municipal plants in Massachusetts a general conclusion adverse to municipal ownership (pp. 367-369). Considering the peculiarities in the Massachusetts situation we do not think that this conclusion so clearly follows. But to say these things in the opinion is not to change the verdict that the book as a whole is excellent and will take a high place in the literature on municipal ownership.

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MINOR NOTICES

Four small volumes, recently published, deal with different phases of the problem of international organization. Taken together, they complement each other, and present a progressive development of the issues involved.

In *A Society of States* (Dutton, pp. 243), W. T. S. Stallybrass, the Vice-Principal of Brasenose College undertakes to establish two propositions: "First, that the doctrine of the absolute sovereignty and inde-

pendence of States, whilst in its day it met a need of the times and was an instrument of progress, no longer serves a useful purpose, for it is not in conformity with fact; secondly, that whilst the League of Nations does undoubtedly involve a rupture with the theories which have dominated the last three centuries, it does not involve so great a departure from the practices of the recent past as is sometimes supposed."

Professor Oppenheim's lectures on *The League of Nations* (Longmans, Green and Co., pp. 84) sets forth more definitely the aims of the proposed League of Nations and discusses problems of organization and legislation, and the administration of justice and mediation. He considers a league of nations essential to a real international law.

Dr. James Brown Scott has presented an analysis of James Madison's *Notes on the Federal Convention of 1787* (Oxford University Press, pp. 149), with special reference to the problems analogous to those found in the organization of a league of nations.

More journalistic in style is Mr. Lippman's booklet, on *The Political Scene* (Henry Holt and Co., pp. 124) which discusses the policy of the United States towards the league. While advocating some amendments in the original draft of the league covenant, he supports it in the main as a necessary basis for reconstruction, to avoid reaction to the old European system on the one hand, or Bolshevist revolution on the other.

A monograph on the *Legal and Political Status of Women in Iowa*, by Ruth A. Gallaher is published by the State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City, pp. 300). The author traces the history of the movement for equality in legal and political status on the part of women during the period from 1838 to 1918. Her discussion is confined to a single state, but the experience of Iowa is fairly typical of the development of the movement throughout the northern part of the country. In the second portion of the book there is also an admirable historical essay on "Equal Suffrage in the United States." Attention may be called, likewise, to the chapters on "Women and the Criminal Law" and on the "Property Rights of Women" as lucid expositions of some rather complicated historical developments.

The *American Year Book* for 1918 contains a complete digest of events during a stirring period. The book is divided into thirty-one sections which cover all that has taken place in the fields of war, politics, busi-

ness, science, art and education during these twelve months. Particular attention is given to the closing phase of the great conflict, to the food situation, the events leading to the adoption of the eighteenth amendment, and to labor questions. As a book of ready and accurate reference the *American Year Book* has become indispensable to every student of public affairs.

The volume by Samuel Gompers on *American Labor and the War* (N. Y., George H. Doran, pp. 377) contains the principal addresses delivered by the author during the last couple of years. They deal with a wide variety of topics but all of them are directly or indirectly concerned with the relations of labor to the issues of the great struggle. The latter part of the volume is devoted to the republication of five reports adopted in conventions of the American Federation of Labor during the war period.

War Borrowing, by Jacob H. Hollander (Macmillan Co., pp. 215) is an examination of the part which public credit has played in our national defense during the war period. Particular attention is given to the system of anticipatory borrowing by means of treasury certificates of indebtedness. While the author regards our methods as having been sound and admirable in the main, he points out some features which he looks upon as serious lapses from good financing.

A booklet entitled *Our Public Debt*, issued by the Bankers Trust Company of New York City, gives a concise account of national borrowings from the funding of the Revolutionary debt down to the present day. The material has been compiled by Harvey E. Fisk.

Professor E. W. Kemmerer has issued a second and revised edition of his little monograph on *The A. B. C. of the Federal Reserve System* (Princeton University Press, pp. 90).

In *Prime Ministers and Others* (Scribner's, pp. 345) George W. E. Russell presents a series of brief personal impressions and reminiscences of British premiers from Lord Palmerston to Campbell-Bannerman, with other short essays on religion, politics, education and miscellaneous subjects.

The subject of Arthur D. Elliot's *Traditions of British Statesmanship* (Constable and Co., pp. 231) is better indicated by the subtitle: "Some Comments on Passing Events." After a brief discussion of the continuity of British foreign policy and events at the outbreak of war, the main body of the work deals with problems of internal politics during the war.

W. L. Leavitt's *Shop Committee* (Macmillan Co., pp. 105) is a statement of the author's experience during the war as an administrator for the National War Labor Board. The shop committee is a new thing in industry and no attempt is made to place any final evaluation upon it. The book merely indicates what these committees are and how they do their work.

Dr. Richard C. Cabot has published, through Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin Company, a small volume of essays on *Social Work*. The essays deal chiefly with the duties and equipment of social workers in relation to the prevention of disease and the helping of the sick.

The Law of Struggle, by Hyman Segal (N. Y., Massada Publishing Co., pp. 161) is a study of the psychological, moral, political and economic aspects of struggle or conflict.

Bulletin xiv of the American Judicature Society contains a schedule of proposed *Rules of Civil Procedure*, supplementing previous bulletins and representing several years of intensive work. This should prove helpful wherever serious efforts are made to simplify judicial procedure and develop rules in a consistent and scientific manner.

The first volume of *American Leaders*, by Walter Loefferts (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., pp. 329) contains short, popular sketches of twenty-one Americans of all types from Benjamin Franklin to David Crockett. The book is intended for use in the fifth grammar-school grade and is written in consonance with the recommendations made some time ago by a committee of the American Historical Association.

Under the title of *The Traffic Field* a volume has been published by the La Salle Extension University on various phases of traffic management. A chapter on "Public Utility Commission Work" is of interest to students of political science.

William Henry Moore's *The Clash: A Study in Nationalities* (N. Y., E. P. Dutton and Co., pp. 333) has run into its seventh edition and has stirred up new interest in the roots of Anglo-French rivalry in Canada. The book deals with the whole problem of recalcitrant Quebec in a new and interesting way.

The Colver Lectures at Brown University, delivered by William Roscoe Thayer, have been published by Messrs. Houghton Mifflin Co. under the title *Democracy: Discipline: Peace* (pp. 124). The lectures deal with the fundamental nature of democracy—its doubts and ideals—in the light of the great conflict.

Social Process, by Professor Charles Horton Cooley, of the University of Michigan (Scribners'), contains several chapters of special interest to students of political institutions. Chapter 14 discusses discipline in democracy; chapter 22, on group conflict, traces the trend from war to democracy and humanism; chapter 23 treats of social control in international relations; chapter 24 deals with the class-conflict theory and race problems; and chapter 31 touches briefly on public opinion as an organic process.